

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An increased risk of a fetal chromosomal abnormality, for example, fetal Down syndrome can be detected by separating or discriminating  $\alpha$ -fetoproteins present in the body fluid of a pregnant woman, and measuring the proportion of one or more of the  $\alpha$ -fetoproteins which have a specific sugar chain structure, relative to the total  $\alpha$ -fetoproteins.